

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA) is a disease of the motor nerve cells in the spinal cord that affects a person's ability to walk, crawl, eat, and breathe. It is the leading genetic cause of death for infants under the age of 2 and can affect any race, ethnicity, or gender; and

WHEREAS, approximately one in 10,000 babies are born with SMA, and one in 50 Americans is a genetic carrier; and

WHEREAS, the FDA approved the first-ever treatment for SMA in December of 2016, making this an historic step for the SMA community, however, access to treatment is limited and remains out-of-reach to many affected by this disease; and

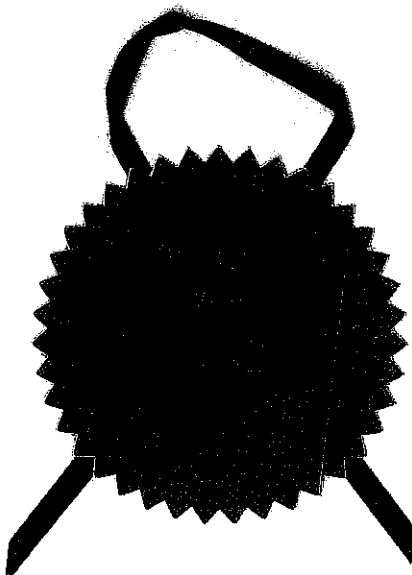
WHEREAS, though breakthroughs in research have strengthened bodies and extended lives, the ultimate goal is to find a cure; and

WHEREAS, Spinal Muscular Atrophy has both devastated and inspired families and their communities, and through increased awareness and support for research, clinical trials and the discovery of new drugs, families and patients continue to hold on to hope that this disease will be cured and eliminated.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mayor Stephen K. Pote, do hereby proclaim August as:

"SPINAL MUSCULAR ATROPHY AWARENESS MONTH"

in the Borough of Watchung, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, and call upon all residents to learn about this debilitating disease and extend support efforts to find a cure.




Stephen K. Pote, Mayor

Date: July 19, 2018